

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /062 W

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R 302050Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5133

FOR ASST SECY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR HILL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 172095

1. THE INTERNAL POLITICAL CRISIS BESETTING ARGENTINA WILL ABSORB ITS ENERGIES AND ATTENTIONS FOR AT LEAST THE BALANCE OF THE CURRENT CLAEANDAR YEAR. THUS, UNTIL ARGENTINA GETS ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER, MANY BILATERAL AND THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES WILL GET SHORT SHIFT BOTH FROM POLICY MAKERS AND OPINION MOLDERS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE SPECIFIC ISSUES YOU RAISED, NONE ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE IN ARGENTINA. EARLIER IN THE YEAR WHEN GOA, ESPECIALLY FONMIN VIGNES, HOPED TO HOST THE MFM THESE QUESTIONS DID RECEIVE CLOSE ATTENTION. AS THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A BA-MFM RECEDED SO TOO DID THE RELEVANCE OF THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES.

3. AT PRESENT THE ARGENTINE VIEWS CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: A) CUBA AND THE OAS--THE DISMANTLING OF THE SANCTIONS UNDER A "FREEDOM OF ACTION" FORMULA WILL BE WELCOMED HERE. THE GOA'S SHIFT TO THE RIGHT SINCE PERON'S DEATH  
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AND GELBARD'S DOWNFALL MADE ITS "LEADERSHIP" ROLE ON CUBA

QUESTION VULNERABLE TO DOMESTIC ATTACK FROM  
TRADITIONAL CONSERVATIVES. OAS ACTION WILL "LEGITIMIZE" GOA  
POSITION INTERNALLY AND WILL ALSO REDUCE CRITICISM FROM  
URUGUAY, PARAGUAY AND CHILE RE GOA'S RECOGNITION OF CUBA;  
B) US-CUBA MOVES--WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE MUCH REACTION ON  
THIS QUESTION. GOA AND PUBLIC BELIEVE US AND CUBA  
MOVING SLOWLY TO RENEW MORE NORMAL RELATIONS AND WILL  
VIEW ACTIONS AS LOGICAL STEPS IN PROCESS; C) AND D)  
NEW CANAL TREATY--IF A NEW TREATY IS SIGNED ARGENTINA WILL  
JOIN IN GENERAL HEMISPHERIC APPLAUSE. DOUBTLESS THEY  
WILL ATTRIBUTE SUCCESS TO HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY AND  
SIMILAR RHETORICAL FORMULATIONS. A BREAKDOWN IN  
NEGOTIATIONS WOULD FIND ARGENTINA JOINING OTHER LA'S  
IN CRITICIZING US FOR FAILURE TO ACHIEVE NEW TREATY.  
BOTH RESPONSE ARE PREDICTABLE AND IN NEITHER CASE WOULD  
WE EXPECT GOA TO GET IN FRONT OF GENERAL LA LINE;  
E) OPEC EXCLUSION--THE ISSUE HAS DROPPED FROM PUBLIC  
VIEW AND FACT EXCLUSIONS NOT LIFTED WOULD NOT BY ITSELF  
REVIVE IT. MORE SENSITIVE ISSUE HERE, WHICH WOULD STIR  
PASSIONS, WOULD BE US ACTION TO EXCLUDE SOME LA FROM  
GSP BECAUSE OF AN INVESTMENT DISPUTE. GOA KNOWS ITS  
OWN VULNERABILITIES ON THIS SCORE AND WOULD REACT  
STRONGLY IF IT SAW ITSELF HEADED FOR CONFLICT WITH  
US ON THIS ISSUE.

COMMENT: ABOVE ANALYSIS ASSUMES THAT CURRENT INTERNAL  
CRISIS DOES NOT PRODUCE STRONG LEFTIST ORIENTATION IN  
GOA. THE COUNTRY WILL LIKELY MOVE TOWARD MORE CENTRIST  
POSITION IN REACTION TO STRONG RIGHTIST ORIENTATION IT  
ASSUMED UNDER LOPEZ REGA. IN THAT EVENT, ABOVE ISSUES  
COULD SERVE DOMESTIC NEEDS OF A NEW GOVERNMENT AND AT  
LEAST AT RHETORICAL LEVEL ISSUES WOULD RECEIVE  
GREATER ATTENTION.

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## Message Attributes

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